

Types of Hazards

Physical Hazard: Open well caps or exposed dug wells pose serious risks. If a well opening is large enough, there is a danger of someone tripping or falling in. In some cases, these wells may be difficult to escape and pose a risk of injury or entrapment.

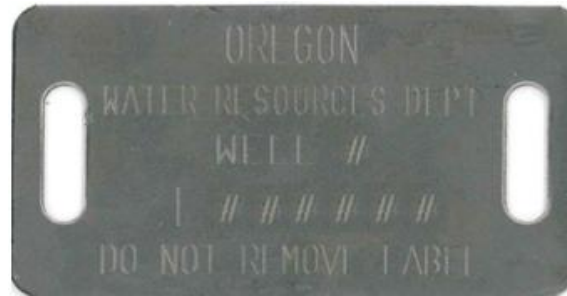
Contamination Hazard: Ground water contamination can occur from natural or human sources. Chemicals entering the groundwater can pose long term risks.



Photo shows dug well with open cover and opening greater than 10 ft. Water in the well is exposed and is a safety hazard.

Well ID Labels

A Well ID Label or tag is a unique identifier attached to a well that links its construction and ownership to records with the state. Wells drilled, altered, deepened, or converted since 1996 are required to have a Well ID label or tag. Existing wells prior to 1996 must have a label within 30 days of a property transfer. Well ID labels and tags are free. Search “Well ID Label Application Form” on the Oregon Water Resources Page to apply or contact your Regional Office for OWRD.



North Central Regional Office:

116 SE Dorion Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801
Office (541)278-5456
Well Inspector: (541)969-9896



Water Well Maintenance

Water wells provide direct access to groundwater commonly shared with others. Wells must be maintained to prevent health hazards, health threats, or risks to public safety. Wells can contribute to contamination or can waste groundwater. It is recommended that well owners perform routine maintenance and testing.

The landowner is responsible for well maintenance. If construction problems are discovered that may contribute to contamination or waste of groundwater, the landowner may be required to repair or abandon the well to eliminate the problem.

**“ The landowner shall maintain all water supply wells in a condition where they are not a health threat, health hazard, a source of contamination or a source of waste of the groundwater. “
OAR 690-215-0005 (2)**



Photo of irrigation pump over an exposed well. Chemicals or animals could enter the well.

Well Cap

- Inspect the sanitary seal or well cap on top of the well casing at least once a year to ensure it is tight-fitting, secure, and in good repair.
- If the well cap is vented, make sure the vent is screened to prevent insects, rodents, or debris from entering. The screen should be intact and free of obstructions.
- Look for signs of damage, such as cracks, corrosion, or loose fittings. Replace damaged caps immediately.
- After any flooding, construction, or landscaping near the well, recheck the cap and casing for integrity.
- Keep a maintenance log of inspections, repairs, and any water quality testing.



Photo shows partially uncovered dug well.

Well Casing

Minimum well construction standards require sound casing a minimum one foot above land surface to prevent overland flow of water from entering the well. Ensure the casing is not damaged or compromised in any way and remains above land surface.



Photo of the casing and seal exposed.

Well Housing

Do not store poisons, pesticides, petroleum products or other hazardous materials in the shelter or near your well if it is contained within a shelter or pump house. Do not use it to shelter animals. Ensure there is no damage to your shelter.



Photo of collapsed well house and open well cover, represents a safety and health hazard.



Photo of well house with plants growing inside the building, standing water on the ground, and chemicals being stored.